

SOME DIFFICULTIES ON TEACHING WRITING FOR EFL STUDENTS

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Abstract:

Teaching writing has become difficult because of the challenges faced by the students in learning writing skills. Some of the challenges that are faced by the EFL students are lack of vocabulary, poor grammar, poor spelling, students' readiness and lack of exposure to books and reading materials.

Keywords: Writing skills, teaching and learning writing, challenges of writing.

Introduction

There are many consequences that could lead to major drawbacks in students' academic performance if they have a weak foundation in writing. Writing is not only vital in order to develop their academic performance, but also contributes to their social and emotional development. Moreover, in this competitive world, writing is also one of the skills that is necessary to excel. Their inability to write well, may affect their chances to secure a job in the future. Therefore, this issue needs to be tackled effectively. The challenges faced by the students have made it challenging for teachers to teach writing skills. The challenges that are faced by the teachers to teach writing skills are difficult to motivate their students, students of diverse levels, difficult materials and time constraints to teach the students. In order to improve a student's writing ability, more attention must be given by a teacher to teach writing such as giving guidance and feedback. Therefore, a teacher needs to be aware of the challenges faced by other English teachers in teaching writing skills and ESL students' challenges in learning to write.

Materials

Each student may face different challenges in learning writing. All the students are special and unique in their own ways. These challenges will somehow pull back the students from moving forward to produce a good piece of writing. The following paragraphs are about challenges faced by students in writing. Lack of vocabulary has caused the students to face challenges in acquiring writing skills. [1] Vocabulary is the fundamental element in constructing sentences which is the core of effective writing skills.[2] Students almost use spoken and written words every single day to communicate their ideas, beliefs and feelings with people around them. Good vocabulary repertoire can help students to speak or write to deliver their thoughts. Usage of electronic dictionary and more reading activities can help students with limited vocabulary.

Methods

Some EFL students are also having trouble with grammar. Grammar plays an important role in writing. Grammar provides information that helps the readers to understand its meaning. It is a structure that conveys the detailed meaning of the writer to the reader. Grammar also explains the forms and structure of words, called morphology and how they are arranged in sentences, called syntax. By having very limited knowledge in grammar, students will face anxiety to write sentences with correct grammar.

Results

Poor spelling is another cause of anxiety for students in learning writing skill. [3] Having good ability in spelling will lead to positive learning of writing skill. If the students are struggling with spellings, it will hold them back to move forward. The students have the habit to spell according to their pronunciation and this will lead to wrong spelling. [4] The students will either add or leave letters of the words. Last but not the least, lack of motivation is another challenge faced by the students. If the students are not motivated, they might not be interested to proceed with their learning process. Motivation is important in improving students' learning results.[5] Teachers could motivate the students by rewarding them with simple motivational phrases by saying "Good job!", "Good try!", "Keep it up" etc. Positive reward will make the students go further in their learning process. Teaching has always been the challenging part for teachers. Teaching English at primary level is naturally much more different from teaching in other levels of students such as secondary and tertiary levels. The challenge will somehow make the teachers' teaching ineffective. The following are the challenges faced by teachers. Nowadays, teachers are having a hard time in motivating the students. The younger generation has the perception that they can do whatever they please since much freedom has been given to them by their parents. When students choose to feel reluctant in learning, it is a sign of lack of motivation. [6]

Discussion

Having different levels of students in the classroom is another challenge faced by teachers to teach writing. In many elementary classrooms, students from different levels are placed in the same classroom. Different levels of students will result to difficulty to teachers in order to cater all of their levels simultaneously. [9] Different levels of writing ability will require the teachers to use different approaches. As a result, the teachers feel difficult to plan their lessons and prepare appropriate activities for the students. [7] Lack of students' interest is another challenge. Developing writing skills is always challenging, however, it is always an interesting task. Especially when it comes to writing, some students zone out. Students feel lack of interest in writing because they need to know many aspects in order to produce a good piece of work. The students need to know punctuations, grammar, vocabulary, spelling and sentence structure in order to write a good piece of writing.

Conclusion

As writing has been becoming the most challenging task among students and it takes lots of time to learn, I personally believe we can overcome this obstacles with working hard on our weak points. By understanding both the students' and teachers' challenges in learning and teaching writing skills, the teachers could choose the best possible approach to teach writing skills by giving feedback and guidance.

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